News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City successfully solving pothole pickle

Edmonton, April 14, 2008 – A combination of investment, hard work and preventive maintenance is keeping the City of Edmonton ahead of the pothole challenge.

"So far we've seen almost half the number of potholes compared to last year," said Al Cepas, Pavement Management Engineer. "The increase in the snow clearing budget helped keep our streets in good shape during the winter. Having extra crews and equipment on standby allowed us to remove snow before it could melt and potentially cause new potholes to form."

Roadway maintenance crews started filling potholes in January, and up to March 31, 50,000 potholes have been filled, as compared to 87,000 for the first quarter of 2007. From January 2 – April 11, 2008 the Citizen Action Centre received 34 pothole complaint phone calls, down from 113 last year.

City Council's commitment of $30 million to repave and smooth out some of Edmonton's major roads in 2007 also prevented potholes from forming. With fewer potholes, the City of Edmonton has received a smaller number of pothole damage claims from motorists. In 2007, the City received 236 claims between January and March. This year, the City received 84 claims during the same three months.

"Motorists need to know that damage claims are not immediately paid by the City," stressed Don Marshall, Director of Risk Management. "We have a rigorous and fair process to ensure the claims are legitimate, and to evaluate if the City is actually responsible for the damage being alleged in the claim."

Motorists are encouraged to help the City by reporting potholes. "We make every effort to fill potholes as soon as we can with priority given to higher-speed roads, so the sooner we find out about them, the sooner they get repaired," recommended Cepas. "Motorists should also drive for the road conditions – if a section of road is rough, slow down and leave more space between vehicles."

To report a pothole call 780-496-1700 or visit www.edmonton.ca/transportation and click on *Report a Problem*. To make a claim call 780-496-5130 or visit www.edmonton.ca and do a search for *Claim Damage Form*.

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About Edmonton:

This is a city alive with energy and boundless opportunity - a growing economic powerhouse where business thrives and more than a million lives enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, experience, excel and expect the most out of every day. A place like no other, Edmonton is filled with surprises great and small and a calendar packed with artistic, sporting, theatrical and cultural celebration.

For more information on Edmonton, please visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca.

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THE CITY OF Edmonton